

STAFFORD
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the
Medical Officer of Health
and the
Chief Sanitary Inspector
FOR THE YEAR 1948

JULY, 1949

ANNUAL REPORT

Public Health Department,

7, St. Mary's Grove,

Stafford.

July, 1949.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Stafford Rural District
Council.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of submitting to you the Annual Report for the Year 1948. The report has been compiled in conformity with the general recommendations of the Ministry of Health.

The Stafford Rural District in 1948 had a Live Birth Rate of 18.0 and a Death Rate of 9.1 per 1,000 Civilian Population, compared with respective figures of 17.9 and 10.8 for England and Wales. The excess of live births over total deaths was 135. The Infant Mortality Rate in the area was 29, as compared with 34 for England and Wales.

The estimated population was given at 15,170 by the Registrar-General (15,160 in 1947).

Compared with 1947, 1948 showed an increase in the incidence of Scarlet Fever and Whooping Cough. This was an increase general throughout the country. No cases of Diphtheria occurred in the Rural Area during the year.

Forty-seven permanent houses were built by the Local Authority in 1948, one by private enterprise, and three by the County Council to house members of the Police Force. In addition, the R.D.C. provided 46 dwellings by the conversion of former Service buildings. I would refer once again to the many hopelessly unfit dwellings in the Area, the only suitable treatment being demolition procedures. Of approximately 3,000 "working-class" houses in the Area, 1,924 have been surveyed to present date, and 322 have been placed in Category 5 i.e. unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable cost. The Council will probably in future wish to give attention to the provision of houses of more than the standard three bedrooms, and I would suggest there is a present indication for two bedroomed houses for the accommodation of newly-weds and the one-child family, etc. Such houses would meet many present requirements and a system of interchange in Council houses would meet the required adjustments as the number of family "units" increased or decreased as the years pass.

As the Housing Survey proceeds, the Public Health Department has been impressed by the relationship between the present high building costs and the low rents chargeable for many of the dwellings occupied in the Area. This is a great handicap as far as the enthusiastic co-operation of property owners with the Department is concerned when costly repairs of dwellings are indicated.

The inhabitants of the Area are nowadays more "water conscious" as far as their demands for adequate and wholesome supplies of water are concerned, and the Council is pushing ahead with present and future schemes to satisfy these needs. The importance of adequate supplies of pure water on dairy premises is firmly underlined by the Country's policy on the quantity and quality of milk supplies. The Council has also a very heavy programme of sewerage provision to undertake, and I have on several occasions during the year stressed the urgency of providing adequate sewerage arrangements for the Parishes of Colwich, Berks-wich and Brocton. These Parishes are, of course, not the only places in the Area which call for up-to-date sewerage, but they are the ones which call most obviously for urgent provision. Members of the Council fully realize that, with the growth of the Council's water supply undertakings, the subject of sewerage is one which will of necessity increasingly engage the urgent attention of the Council. Rural inhabitants are nowadays no longer content to put up with the insanitary pail-closet and privy and an inadequate, contaminated water supply drawn from shallow wells, etc. People living in Category 5 dwellings in the Rural Area are comparing their lot with the occupants of new Council houses, houses with a fixed bath, indoor W.C., a pure water supply piped through the house, etc. To my mind, therefore, these new houses in the Rural Area, with their up-to-date amenities constitute a valuable object lesson in the way of healthy living.

The importance of a healthy Agricultural Industry to the present and future needs of the country calls for many more new modern-type houses, speed in the provision of piped water supplies, with modern sewerage arrangements being provided concurrently with water supplies. It will be seen from tables in the body of the report that there are 4,089 houses in the Area accommodating a population of 15,170. One thousand two hundred and eighty-eight of these houses serving a population of 5,013 have a water supply direct to house, 53 houses (195 persons) are served by stand-pipe, giving a total of 1,341 houses (5,208 persons) served by main. In addition, a limited number of houses are served by private mains and stand-pipes.

The difficulties and problems of the Rural District Council are not far to seek, 26 separate Parishes calling aloud for new houses, piped water supplies and up-to-date sewerage. The Council

intends to press on with the provision of these amenities in so far as their powers allow them to do so.

I wish to express my thanks to the Chief Sanitary Inspector and the Staff of the Public Health Department for help in preparing this Report and to acknowledge once again the help and courtesy extended to me by the Public Health Committee and Members of the Council during 1948.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ALEXANDER THOMSON.

Public Health Committee, 1948.

Chairman—

COUNCILLOR A. J. BOURNE.

Vice-Chairman—

COUNCILLOR J. GOUGH.

Members—

Councillor	J. R. Ball	Councillor	H. C. Plant
„	Rev. H. H. Fox	„	J. E. Poulson
„	J. C. Holme	„	S. Robinson
„	A. J. James	„	C. W. Stubbs
„	P. Kemp	„	A. J. Tomlinson
„	W. Martin	„	W. Turner
		„	Rev. C. G. Wright

Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health—

A. THOMSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Edin.).

Chief Sanitary Inspector—

G. M. LAWTON, A.M.I.S.E., M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Certified Food Inspector.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors—

A. F. WARD, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Certified Food Inspector.
F. WEEDON, M.S.I.A. (appointed 1948, commenced duties 1st January, 1949).

Clerk—

MISS L. E. ECCLESHALL.

Junior Clerk and Trainee—

MR. H. G. MORGAN.

General Statistics, Social Conditions and Health Services in the Area.

Area (in acres)	.....	80,249
Number of Inhabited Houses	.....	4,089
Rateable Value	.....	£75,800
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	..... £301	7s. 6d.
Population (as estimated by the Registrar-General)	.....	15,170
Estimated number of Agricultural Workers	.....	1,149
Estimated number of workers in other occupations	.....	5,101
Estimated number of employed persons	.....	6,250

There were no alterations in the Boundaries of the Rural Area in 1948.

Industries.

Many residents in the Area are normally mainly engaged in Agriculture, Dairy Farming and Allied occupations, but a substantial number of persons resident in the Rural Area are employed in the County Town of Stafford, where the chief industries are Engineering and Boot and Shoe Manufacturing.

Vital Statistics for the Year 1948.

In 1948 the Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the civilian population was 18.0, compared with a rate of 17.9 for England and Wales.

						Stafford R.D.
						Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population
Year						
1948	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	18.0
1947	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	18.7
1946	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	18.7
1945	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	18.2
1944	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	19.6
1943	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	21.1
1942	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	19.3
1941	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	17.9
1940	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	16.8

The Still-Birth Rate per 1,000 civilian population was 0.79 in 1948, compared with 0.86, 0.27, 0.41, 0.40, 0.55, 0.61 in 1947, 1946, 1945, 1944, 1943 and 1942 respectively.

During 1948 the rate of Illegitimate to Legitimate Births was 1 to 16, compared with 1 to 13, 1 to 16, 1 to 15, 1 to 14, 1 to 16 and 1 to 36 in 1947, 1946, 1945, 1944, 1943 and 1942 respectively.

There were 273 (284) Live Births in the Rural Area in 1948, 146 (149) boys and 127 (135) girls. The figures in brackets are the corresponding figures for 1947.

In the following table comparative figures for Live and Still-Births are shown for England and Wales :—

						Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population
						Stafford R.D. England and Wales
Year						
1948	.....	.....	.....	18.0	.....	17.9
1947	.....	.....	.....	18.7	.....	20.5
1946	.....	.....	.....	18.7	.....	19.1
1945	.....	.....	.....	18.2	.....	16.1
1944	.....	.....	.....	19.6	.....	17.6
1943	.....	.....	.....	21.1	.....	16.5
						Still-Birth Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population
						Stafford R.D. England & Wales
Year						
1948	.....	.....	.....	0.79	.....	0.42
1947	.....	.....	.....	0.86	.....	0.50

1946	.....	.....	0.27	.....	0.53
1945	.....	.....	0.41	.....	0.46
1944	.....	.....	0.40	.....	0.50
1943	.....	.....	0.55	.....	0.51

There were 12 Still-Births (5M, 7 F.) in 1948, all legitimate.

Deaths.

In 1948 the Death Rate per 1,000 of the Civilian population was 9.1, compared with a Rate of 10.8 for England and Wales.

Death Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population.

Year	Stafford R.D. England & Wales.				
1948	9.1	.....	10.8
1947	10.2	.....	12.0
1946	9.3	.....	11.5
1945	10.9	.....	11.4
1944	9.8	.....	11.6
1943	12.9	.....	12.1

In the Stafford Rural District in 1948 total deaths numbered 138, 78 males and 60 females. The excess of live births over total deaths was 135, compared with 129 and 140 in 1947 and 1946 respectively.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age numbered 8, 8 legitimate and 0 illegitimate, giving a Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births of 29, compared with 34 for England and Wales.

Infant Mortality Rate.

Death Rate of Children under
1 year of age per 1,000 Live Births.

Year	Stafford R.D. England & Wales.				
1948	29	.....	34
1947	32	.....	41
1946	61	.....	43
1945	22	.....	46
1944	44	.....	46

Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age.

Rates per 1,000 Live Births.

Year	Stafford R.D. England & Wales.				
1948	11	.....	3.3
1947	—	5.8
1946	—	4.4
1945	—	5.6

Three male children under 2 years of age died from Diarrhoea in 1948.

Laboratory Facilities, Ambulance Facilities, Nursing in the Home, Treatment Centres and Voluntary Hospitals.

Bacteriological facilities are made available to Medical Practitioners in the Area by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Stafford. This Service is directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health. The facilities include examinations of

Throat Swabs, Sputum Tests, Blood Tests, etc. Results of all examinations relevant to Public Health are made available to the appropriate Medical Officer of Health. The Director of the Stafford Laboratory is Lt.-Col. Phease, whose helpful advice is available to the Medical Officer of Health when occasion demands. Bacteriological Examinations of samples of water are undertaken by the Laboratory Service.

Chemical Examinations of samples of water are carried out at the County Chemical Laboratory which is directed by Mr. Houlbrooke, the County Analyst.

The Stafford Rural District Council, until 5th July, 1948, had agreements with the Stafford Borough and Rugeley Urban District Councils for use of their Ambulances for general hospital work, and the services provided proved adequate and sufficient for the needs of the Rural Area. On 5th July, 1948, the duty of providing Ambulance Services was placed upon the County Council as Local Health Authority under the National Health Service Act, 1946. Until July 5th the Mid-Staffs. Joint Hospital Board, of which the Stafford R.D. was a constituent member, provided ambulance facilities for the conveyance of cases of Infectious Diseases to Isolation Hospitals under the Board's jurisdiction. The Regional Hospital Board (Birmingham) thereafter took over responsibility for these hospitals.

The County Council is the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority for the Stafford R.D. Area. Child Welfare Centres are available at Gnosall, Great Haywood, Hixon and Walton, and the Health Visitors do excellent work in promoting the Welfare of young children in the district. Your Medical Officer of Health attends the Welfare Centres and Schools in the Area and is thus enabled to assess the health standards of the young life in the district.

There are two General Medical Practitioners resident in the Stafford R.D. and Practitioners from the neighbouring towns of Stafford, Rugeley, Newport, etc., also practise in the Area. The various Parishes in the Stafford R.D. are well served by District Nurse-Midwives.

The Staffordshire General Infirmary, from 5th July, 1948, under the direction of the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board, serves the general hospital needs of the district. From that date the Board also assumed responsibility for the provision of Maternity Hospital facilities which previously were provided by the Staffordshire County Council. There are also several small private Maternity Homes providing for the district.

During the year the Council subscribed to the Central Council for Health Education which represented the Ministry of Health in Health Education matters, and use was made of Health Education leaflets, etc.

Deaths, 1948; Causes.

Cause of Death	Males	Females	Totals
Typhoid and Para-Typhoid Fevers	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	—	1
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	—	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	4	1	5
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	—
Syphilitic Diseases	—	—	—
Influenza	—	1	1
Measles	—	—	—
Acute Polio-myelitis and Polio-Encephalitis	—	—	—
Cancer of Buccal, Oesophagus, Uterus	—	1	1
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	1	2
Cancer of Breast	—	2	2
Cancer—of all other Sites	6	9	15
Diabetes	1	—	1
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	5	6	11
Heart Diseases	27	19	46
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	—	2	2
Bronchitis	4	3	7
Pneumonia	—	5	5
Other Respiratory Diseases	3	—	3
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	2	—	2
Diarrhoea under 2 years	3	—	3
Appendicitis	—	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases	—	2	2
Nephritis	—	1	1
Puerperal and post-abort sepsis	—	—	—
Other Maternal Causes	—	2	2
Premature Birth	—	—	—
Congenital, Birth Injuries, etc.	5	—	5
Suicide	1	—	1
Road Traffic Accidents	2	—	2
Other Violent Causes	3	2	5
All Other Causes	9	3	12
Totals	78	60	138

Infectious Diseases.

The Incidence of Infectious Diseases in 1948 compared with that of previous years is shewn below in tabular form :—

Disease	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942
Scarlet Fever	55	35	26	27	46	59	18
Whooping Cough	53	16	37	35	25	78	22
Diphtheria	—	2	—	2	6	4	5
Erysipelas	3	1	2	4	2	2	9
Measles (excluding Rubella)	115	125	1	164	75	110	10
Acute Primary Pneumonia	2	3	3	2	5	6	12
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	2	—	1	5	1	4
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	1	—	—	3
Dysentery	—	1	10	1	7	2	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Para-Typhoid Fever	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis ...	—	6	—	—	—	—	—

Names of Parishes in Stafford Rural District shewing number of Houses (including Farm Houses), approximate Population Figures and Incidence of Infectious Diseases in each Parish in 1948.

Name of Parish.	Number of Houses	* Approximate * Population	Infectious Diseases Notified.										
			Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Measles	Whooping Cough	Primary Pneumonia	Dysentery	Enteric or Typhoid	Para- Typhoid	Erysipelas	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis
Adbaston	160	665	2	—	4	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Baswich	328	1,256	10	—	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bradley	87	317	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brocton	198	784	9	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Castle Church	188	727	1	—	5	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Church Eaton	161	519	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Colwich	471	1,763	3	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Creswell	84	322	5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ellenhall	53	172	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Forton	133	513	2	—	2	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fradswell	40	155	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gayton	50	190	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gnosall	594	2,217	2	—	18	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haughton	169	537	3	—	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
High Offley.....	187	678	1	—	18	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Hopton and Coton	75	283	1	—	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ingestre	38	132	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Marston	51	208	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Norbury	83	291	3	—	5	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ranton	67	276	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Salt & Enson	101	403	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Seighford	258	972	3	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Stowe	289	949	3	—	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tixall	56	206	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Weston	113	418	5	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Whitgreave ...	55	217	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	4,089	15,170	55	—	115	53	2	—	—	—	3	1	—

** The Registrar-General estimated the population of the Stafford Rural District at 15,170 (1948).

Age—Incidence of Infectious Diseases, 1948.

AGE-GROUPS	Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria		Measles (excluding Rubella)		Whooping Cough		Pneumonia (Acute Primary)		Dysentery		Enteric or Typhoid		Para-Typhoid		Erysipelas		Puerperal Pyrexia		Acute Anterior Polio-myelitis	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—4 years	5	6	—	—	27	22	14	16	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10 years	14	17	—	—	36	15	8	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11—15 years	5	3	—	—	3	4	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16—20 years	1	1	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21—30 years	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31—50 years	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—
51—70 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Over 70 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	26	29	—	—	69	46	27	26	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	1	—	—

Infectious Diseases Notifications, 1948, showing Months of Occurrence.

MONTH	Scarlet Fever	Diph- theria	Measles (ex- cluding Rubella)	Whoop- ing Cough	Pneumonia (Acute Primary)	Dysentery	Enteric or Typhoid Fever	Para- Typhoid Fever	Erysipelas	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Acute Anterior Polio- myelitis
January	3	—	39	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
February	6	—	24	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
March	19	—	20	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
April	1	—	12	9	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
May	2	—	16	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
June	3	—	4	11	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
July	4	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
August	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
September	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
October	2	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
November	8	—	—	15	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
December	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	55	—	115	53	2	—	—	—	3	1	—

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality and Case-Rates
for certain Infectious Diseases in the year, 1948.

Year 1948.	Stafford Rural District.	England and Wales.	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London.	148 smaller Towns with Resident Populations 25,000—50,000 at 1931 Census.	London Administrative County.
		Rates	per 1,000 Civilian Population.		
Births :—					
Live Births	18.0	17.9	20.0	19.2	20.1
Still Births	0.79	0.42	0.52	0.43	0.39
Deaths :—					
All causes	9.1	10.8	11.6	10.7	11.6
Typhoid and Para-Typhoid	—	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.33	0.51	0.59	0.46	0.63
Whooping Cough	0.06	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01
Diphtheria	—	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Influenza	0.06	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.02
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	0.32	0.41	0.38	0.36	0.54
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	—	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00

A dash (—) signifies that there were no deaths.

Infectious Diseases.—Notifications, Year, 1948.

YEAR 1948.	Stafford Rural District.	England and Wales.	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns with Resident Populations 25,000—50,000 at 1931 Census.	London Administrative County.
NOTIFICATIONS.		Rates per 1,000	Civilian Population :—		
Typhoid Fever ..	—	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Para-Typhoid Fever ..	—	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ..	—	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Scarlet Fever ..	3.62	1.73	1.90	1.82	1.37
Whooping Cough ..	3.49	3.42	3.51	3.31	3.13
Diphtheria ..	—	0.08	0.10	0.09	0.10
Erysipelas ..	0.20	0.21	0.23	0.21	0.22
Small Pox ..	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ..	7.58	9.34	9.75	8.84	9.17
Pneumonia ..	0.13	0.73	0.84	0.60	0.57

A dash (—) signifies there were no cases.

	Rates per 1,000 Live Births.			
Deaths all causes, under 1 yr. of age ..	29	34	39	31
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age ..	11	3.3	4.5	2.4
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia |	3.51	6.89	8.90	4.71
				7.34

Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Up to 5th July, 1948, the R.D.C. was the Authority responsible for the immunisation of children of 5—14 years of age, the County Council being the Authority responsible for the protection by Immunisation of the pre-school child. On 5th July, 1948, the County Council, as Local Health Authority under the 1946 National Health Service Act, assumed responsibility for the Immunisation of Pre-School and School Children. As your Medical Officer attends the Welfare Centres and Schools in the Rural District, he has ample opportunity of stressing to parents the value of Immunisation as a protection against Diphtheria, which is an insidious and deadly disease. In my Annual Report for 1947 it was noted that 67 per cent of children under 5 years and 94 per cent of children aged 5—14 years had received a Primary Course of Immunisation against Diphtheria. During the first half of 1948, 74 children were immunised by me, and in the second half 61 were so protected, making a total of 135.

From 1911—1940 the number of cases of Diphtheria notified in England and Wales was consistently round about 50,000 per year. In 1940 the Ministry of Health introduced its Immunisation Scheme—the prophylactic most commonly used being Alum-Precipitated Toxoid (A.P.T)—and in 1942 the number of notified cases was 41,404. Thereafter the number of notified cases fell steadily—34,662 in 1943, 29,949 in 1944, 25,246 in 1945, 18,283 in 1946, 10,465 in 1947 and 8,034 in 1948. The number of deaths from Diphtheria showed a similar trend; between 1911 and 1940 there had been a fairly steady fall but the figure appeared to be attaining stability at about 2,500 deaths per annum. In 1942, two years after the Ministry's campaign had started, deaths from Diphtheria in England and Wales had fallen to 1,827 and the decrease continued; 1,371 in 1943, 934 in 1944, 722 in 1945, 472 in 1946, 244 in 1947, and 150 in 1948.

Since this remarkable change in the Incidence and Mortality of Diphtheria took place to a large extent during a war in which food shortages, movements of population and bombing had added greatly to the difficulty of controlling Infectious Disease it is clear that Diphtheria Immunisation by A.P.T. possesses the essential qualities of a good Diphtheria Prophylactic—the capacity to reduce to very small proportions the Incidence and Mortality of Diphtheria.

Infectious Diseases—England and Wales, 1948.

Summation of the weekly figures for 1948 shows that the most notable feature during the year was the low incidence of Influenza. The usual trend of Influenza is one of a steady increase to a maximum during the first weeks of the year, but in 1948,

for the first time in recent experience, no increase in mortality occurred. Whooping Cough was very prevalent and the notifications were about 50 per cent above the totals of recent years. The Incidence of Scarlet Fever was also high. Notifications of Acute Pneumonia were slightly below the level of the preceding years. Notifications of Diphtheria, which have been decreasing steadily since 1941, showed a further large fall. The incidence of Cerebrospinal Fever was about two-thirds that of 1947, but remains at about twice the pre-war level. Following the outbreak of 1947, the incidence of Acute Poliomyelitis declined considerably, but continued at about three times the pre-epidemic level in 1948. Notifications of the principal infectious diseases in England and Wales for 1948 and the four preceding years were as follows :

DISEASE.	NUMBER OF NOTIFICATIONS.				
	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Scarlet Fever	93,801	74,392	57,614	60,524	75,460
Whooping Cough	93,107	62,022	92,028	94,241	145,878
Diphtheria	29,949	25,246	18,283	10,465	8,034
Measles	117,437	443,002	154,826	399,461	396,841
Acute Pneumonia	38,175	34,059	36,106	34,348	31,096
Cerebro-spinal Fever.....	2,883	2,691	2,627	3,147	1,971
Dysentery	10,150	16,533	8,441	4,179	5,534
Enteric (Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	536	679	1,367	880	873
Acute Poliomyelitis	510	799	703	8,592	2,017
Influenza — Deaths in the great towns	1,744	1,307	2,629	1,774	610

Health Records—England and Wales, 1948.

Three Health Records were set up last year in England and Wales.

1. The number of infants dying under the age of one year (26,635) was the lowest ever recorded—the Infant Mortality Rate falling to 39 from 41 per 1,000 live births in the previous year. The Annual Rate had never previously fallen below 40. The previous lowest rate was 41 in 1947.

2. Still-Births (18,415) were the lowest ever known, the rate being 23.1 per 1,000 live and still-births. The previous lowest rate was 24.1 in 1947.

3. The general Death Rate was also the lowest ever recorded in Britain. The total number of deaths registered in England and Wales during 1948 was 470,282, the lowest number for 18 years in spite of an increase of some 3,500,000 in the population at risk. This represents a rate of 10.8 per 1,000 total population and compares with the previous lowest rate of 11.4 in 1945 and 1930.

The number of Live Births registered in England and Wales in 1948 was 777,648, a reduction of 109,172 from the peak of 886,820 in 1947, but was still substantially above pre-war levels (for example, 621,204 in 1938).

Live Births			Stillbirths		Deaths		Deaths of Infants under 1 year.	
Year	No.	Per 1,000 Popu-lation	No.	Per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	No.	Per 1,000 Popu-lation	No.	Per 1,000 Live Births
1948	777,648	17.9	18,415	23.1	470,282	10.8	26,635	34
1947	886,820	20.5	21,916	24.1	517,615	12.0	36,849	41
1946	819,894	19.1	22,915	27.2	492,090	11.5	33,541	43
1938	621,204	15.1	24,729	38.3	478,996	11.6	32,724	53

The total population of England and Wales at June 30th, 1948, was given as 43,502,000 (Males 21,091,000, and Females 22,411,000).

England and Wales Future Population Trends.

The Birth Rate during 1948 was 17.9 per 1,000 and 2.7 below the post-war peak of the preceding year. Except for 1946 and 1947, however, this rate was the highest since 1922. The rise in the Birth Rate following the war was apparently of a temporary nature and was not, as has been suggested, due to a permanent increase in the size of families. The effective reproduction rate corresponding to the births which occurred in 1948, after making allowance for a continuing improvement in the likelihood of survival, has been provisionally assessed at 1.070. With present trends this rate will fall during the next year or so to below 1.0, which is the level of replacement. The Marriage Rate during 1948 of 18.1 remained fairly high. From 1921 to 1937 this rate varied between 14.3 and 17.5. The maintenance of a high marriage rate means that the Birth Rate may remain above the level of the years immediately preceding the war.

A forecast by the Registrar-General, based on the present trends, suggests that in 1960 there will be 22.3 per cent of the population under the age of 15, and 12.1 per cent aged 65 and over, compared with 21.4 per cent and 10.7 per cent in 1948. The school population will be at its peak, and, with the present trends, a decline must be expected after this date. On the other hand, the number of pensioners will continue to increase and become proportionately more important, placing a gradually increasing burden on the social services.

Popluation of Great Britain by Age Groups.

Age Groups	Year 1891		Year 1947	
	Thousands	Per Cent of Total	Thousands	Per Cent of Total
0—19	14,974	45	13,672	28
20—39	9,990	30	14,666	30
40—59	5,603	17	12,507	26
60 and over	2,462	7	7,343	15
Totals	33,029	100	48,188	100

Tuberculosis.

An extract from the Tuberculosis Register of the Stafford Rural District is given below :—

Year	Pulmonary Tuberculosis			Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.			Total Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
At end of December, 1948	50	35	85	23	23	46	73	58	131
„ 1947	50	34	84	22	24	46	72	58	130
„ 1946	45	32	77	21	23	44	66	55	121
„ 1945	45	30	75	21	23	44	66	53	119
„ 1944	44	28	72	17	24	41	61	52	113
„ 1943	41	28	69	14	23	37	55	51	106

On 5th July, 1948, responsibility for the provision of Sanatorium and Hospital accommodation and treatment for cases of Tuberculosis passed to the Regional Hospital Board.

The Stafford Rural District Council in the letting of Council houses gives serious attention to applications where Pulmonary Tuberculosis is a factor. An urgent national problem is, as is well-known, the number of beds in Sanatoria, etc., which remain unoccupied owing to shortage of necessary Nursing Staff. Consequently, throughout the country many sputum-positive cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis perforce remain at home, many under over-crowded conditions, and thus many more individuals, and especially young children, are exposed to the risks of infection by the Tubercle Bacillus.

In 1948 the Death Rate per 1,000 population in the Stafford Rural District was 0.33 compared with a figure of 0.51 for England and Wales. Five persons in the Area died from Pulmonary Tuberculosis in 1948. In the Rural Area in 1948 there were no deaths from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Sanitary Inspection.—Summary of Visits.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses	1,274
These Inspections were for the following purposes :—	
(a) Inspection of Houses for defects (Excluding Hobhouse Survey)	120
(b) Re-inspection of Houses	178
(c) Inspections of living Vans and Sheds	82
(d) Inspections of Service Buildings occupied by Squatters	73
(e) Re Overcrowding and Housing Applications	419
(f) Building Licences for House Repair	34
(g) Re the occupation of Vacant Dwellings.....	20
(h) Hobhouse Survey	298
(i) Verminous and Dirty Dwellings.....	50
	<hr/> 1,274 <hr/>
Inspection of Premises for and re Nuisances	145
Visits re Food Supply—Meat	214
Ditto Ditto Ice-Cream	24
Ditto Ditto other Foods	38
Drainage Inspections	145
New Drains Laid and Examined	36
Cowsheds and Dairies	106
Infectious Diseases	93
Visits re Water Supply	87
Samples of Water taken for Chemical and Bacteriological Examination	59
Refuse Tips—Supervision	192
Refuse and Salvage Collection	168
Factories (including Bakehouses)	13
Knackers' Yards	38
Petroleum Stores	17
Rat Infestations	268
Fumigations	21
Keeping of Animals	6
Shops Acts	19
Accumulation of Refuse	31
Miscellaneous Visits	74
	<hr/> 3,068 <hr/>

NOTICES SERVED DURING YEAR :

Informal Notices and Letters as to general matters	97
Informal Notices to provide Dustbins	92
Statutory Notices	9
Notices complied with (Served 1948 and previously) :	
Informal Notices and Letters as to general matters	69
Informal Notices to provide Dustbins	57
Statutory Notices	9

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED AND DEALT WITH DURING THE YEAR :

Total number received	94
As to Repairs to Dwellings	20
Others	74

WATER SUPPLY

During the year 1948, the Area was not affected to any extreme degree by drought and only in the case of a few dwellings with well supplies was there a shortage, these shortages being only temporary. Approximately half of the dwellings in the Area rely on supplies from private wells and springs, many of which are now being, and most of which will be, displaced by extensions of water mains in schemes approved by the Ministry of Health.

The quality of the many and varied supplies differs greatly. Apart from a few dwellings at Islington, Nr. Newport, and in the village of Norbury serviced by Newport Urban District Council supply and Norbury Church Farm supply respectively, the public mains supplies are solely from this Council's boreholes at The Hollies, Gnosall, and from the Stafford Borough Council's wells and boreholes at Milford. The latter supply is chlorinated.

Samples of these public supplies (four samples of The Hollies water and two of the Borough supply) were taken during the year by this department and found to be entirely satisfactory, typical results being as follows :—

Sample No. 230—The Hollies Supply.

Bacteriological Examination—

Nature of Sample : Bore, Hollies Common, Gnosall.

Date and hour of collection : 9/11/48. 11-30 a.m.

Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days, 37°C. NIL per 100 m.l.

Chemical Analysis :

Sample of water taken from the Bore Hole, Hollies Common, Gnosall, Stafford. Taken 11-30 a.m., 9th November, 1948.

	Parts per 100,000
Total Solid Matter dried at 212°F.	36.50
Free and Saline Ammonia	0.0004
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0008

Nitric Nitrogen	.....	0.45
Chlorine	.....	1.9
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80 °F.	.....	0.003
Appearance	.....	Clear
Injurious Metallic Contamination	.....	None
pH Value	.....	7.2
Hardness before boiling	.....	27.5°
Hardness after boiling	.....	15.8°
Temporary Hardness	.....	11.7°

Sample No. 233—Borough Supply.

Bacteriological Examination—

Nature of Sample : Stafford Borough Supply.

Sample from scullery tap, 39, Sawpit Lane, Brocton, Nr. Stafford.

Date and hour of collection : 10/12/48. 8-45 a.m.

Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey two days, 37°C. Nil per 100 m.l.

Chemical Analysis :

Sample of water taken from scullery tap, Stafford Borough Supply at 39, Sawpit Lane, Brocton, at 8-45 a.m., 10th December, 1948.

	Parts per 100,000
Total Solid Matter dried at 212 ° F.	25.0
Free and Saline Ammonia	Nil
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0004
Nitric Nitrogen	0.30
Chlorine	4.7
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80 °F.	0.004
Appearance	Clear
Injurious Metallic Contamination	None
pH Value	7.4
Hardness before boiling	10.6°
Hardness after boiling	4.5°
Temporary Hardness	6.1°

In addition to the above public supplies, up to February, 1948, 92 dwellings at Gnosall received piped water from the Audmore, Gnosall, springs, but, on the supply being found unfit on routine sampling at that date, the supply was immediately cut off and The Hollies borehole supply substituted.

The number of dwellings and the population supplied from

public mains at December, 1948, (a) direct to the houses and (b) by means of standpipes are shown in the table below :—

Parish	No. of houses in Parish	Approx. population in Parish	Water supplied direct to house.		Water supplied by standpipe		Total Dwellings on main
			No. of houses	Population	No. of houses	Population	
Adbaston	160	665	—	—	—	—	—
Berkswich	328	1,256	323	1,234	4	18	327
Bradley	87	317	—	—	—	—	—
Brocton	198	784	187	743	4	11	191
Castle Church	188	727	145	602	—	—	145
Church Eaton	161	519	—	—	—	—	—
Colwich.....	471	1,763	334	1,362	31	120	365
Creswell	84	322	81	310	—	—	81
Ellenhall	53	172	—	—	—	—	—
Forton	133	513	12	43	—	—	12
Fradswell	40	155	—	—	—	—	—
Gayton	50	190	—	—	—	—	—
Gnosall	594	2,217	87	293	5	17	92
Haughton	169	537	—	—	—	—	—
High Offley	187	678	—	—	—	—	—
Hopton & Coton	75	283	7	26	—	—	7
Ingestre.....	38	132	—	—	—	—	—
Marston	51	208	—	—	—	—	—
Norbury	83	291	6	19	9	29	15
Ranton	67	276	—	—	—	—	—
Salt and Enson.....	101	403	—	—	—	—	—
Seighford	258	972	60	198	—	—	60
Stowe	289	949	6	29	—	—	6
Tixall	56	206	40	154	—	—	40
Weston	113	418	—	—	—	—	—
Whitgreave	55	217	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	4,089	15,170	1,288	5,013	53	195	1,341

In addition 127 dwellings are served from privately-owned mains supplies direct to the houses and 61 dwellings are so supplied by standpipe. These are in the Parishes of Adbaston, Forton, Hopton, Ingestre, Marston, Salt and Whitgreave.

Since the end of 1948 many more dwellings have been connected to mains newly laid at Gnosall and Seighford and similarly still more will have mains water during the next few weeks at Woodseaves, Gnosall, High Offley and part of Knightley.

The supplies to those dwellings without piped water, and which dwellings depend on individual wells and springs, are more often than not unsatisfactory as regards quality. In those instances where on sampling the water is found to be unfit or—as so often happens—the supply is condemned by its topography such as proximity to points of pollution, remedial measures were required where practicable and reasonable. On the other hand, remedial measures are not practicable in many cases and, where mains are being laid or are about to be laid, the only reasonable action has been to advise users to boil or sterilize the water before drinking.

Samples taken during the year of drinking water together with results are as follows :—

	Number of Samples taken for Bacteriological Exam. and Chemical Analysis.	RESULTS		
		Fit	Unfit	Borderline
Wells (Private)	27	1	26	—
Springs (Private).....	6	1	5	—
Main Supplies—				
(a) Public	8	6	2	—
(b) Private	12	3	6*	3
Boreholes.....	6	5	1	—
	59	16	40	3

* These six were from different points on the same supply.

The two samples from public mains found to be unfit were from the Audmore supply referred to earlier and which was immediately substituted for the wholesome supply from The Hollies.

SEWERAGE.

There were no new works of sewerage or sewage disposal

during the year. As has been reported to the Council by this department the provision of public sewerage and sewage disposal plant is the natural corollary to the installation of water mains which is progressing through the district. At the present time the greater number of houses in the area are drained to small cesspools and septic tanks and soakaways in the gardens of the houses. The numbers of dwellings on a sewerage system in the different parishes are as follows :—

Parish	Number of Houses.	Number of houses on sewerage system.
Adbaston	160	—
Berkswich	328	81
Bradley	87	—
Brocton	198	—
Castle Church	188	39
Church Eaton	161	48
Colwich	471	153
Creswell	84	30
Ellenhall	53	—
Forton	133	—
Fradswell	40	—
Gayton	50	—
Gnosall	594	130
Haughton	169	—
High Offley	187	—
Hopton and Coton	75	12
Ingestre	38	—
Marston	51	—
Norbury	83	14
Ranton	67	—
Salt and Enson	101	—
Seighford	258	8
Stowe	289	—
Tixall	56	—
Weston	113	25
Whitgreave	55	—
TOTAL	4,089	540

REFUSE AND SALVAGE COLLECTION.

The collection of house refuse was carried out by direct labour from all the villages and built-up areas of the Council's district. Three modern type low-loading refuse collection vehicles (two of 7½ cub. yd. capacity, and one of 12 cub. yd. capacity) are used for this work and a fourth vehicle, a tipper lorry, was occasionally used as reserve. About 2,700 dwellings received the service

which constituted a fortnightly collection to within a day or two either way. Most of the districts received an exact fortnightly service, collections being made on the same day of the week, but it is found altogether impracticable to guarantee this in every area of a district so scattered and so large. The few dwellings which do not receive the service are in isolated positions and here again it is obvious that the service cannot embrace such dwellings except at excessive additional cost.

The several refuse tips were kept in reasonably good order during the year though it was found necessary to close temporarily and completely seal off with sand the Weston Bank tip because of continuous combustion and resultant smell nuisance—this action abated the nuisance. The Gravel Pit at Milford Common, which was used as a refuse tip by local people and many others, became an eyesore and, largely because of this, the Council decided to use the tip for refuse disposal by controlled tipping methods, all refuse deposited by the Council being sealed off with equivalent loads of sand from nearby works. The site has been far tidier and risk of combustion removed as a consequence. Rigorous steps were regularly taken to keep the refuse tips rat-free by poisoning methods and gas during the year.

Because of grave paper shortage, by increased effort and much “propaganda” salvage increased appreciably during the year and the following paper and carboard salvage was dispatched to the Mills during 1948.

Month		Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.		Income to Council.		
						£	s.	d.
January	.....	2	—	3	.....	12	19	9
February	.....	2	4	—	....	13	18	10
March	.....	2	5	—	.....	20	7	0
April	.....	3	13	—	.....	23	5	4
May	.....	7	15	—	.....	66	11	0
June	.....	4	11	—	.....	42	7	5
July	.....	4	16	—	.....	37	18	11
August	.....	4	5	3	.....	34	18	6
September	.....	2	16	—	.....	23	1	4
October	.....	5	6	2	.....	47	4	7
November	.....	6	3	3	.....	54	13	5
December	.....	4	18	3	.....	43	14	7
TOTAL.....		50	15	2	.....	£421	0	8

HOUSING.

New Houses erected during 1948 :—

- (a) by Local Authority (Permanent Houses) 47
 These were at :—Haughton, 20 ; Woodseaves,
 10 ; Hixon, 11 ; Gnosall, 6.

(b) by Private Enterprise	1
(c) by C.C. for Police Force	3

In addition 46 dwellings were provided by the Council by conversion of military buildings.

Existing Dwellings.—Much time was devoted by the Sanitary Inspectors to existing housing conditions and many overcrowded cases and other families living in insanitary conditions were rehoused to better accommodation by the efforts of the department.

The house-to-house survey (Hobhouse Survey) of the fitness of dwellings continued during the year, but the many other duties of the staff prevented great progress in this work. However, with the additional appointment of an Assistant Sanitary Inspector at the commencement of 1949, the completion of the survey is at least in sight, over 2,000 of approximately 3,000 “ working-class ” dwellings in the area having been surveyed at the time of going to press. The Hobhouse Survey figures for the year 1948 are shown in the table following :—

	Dwellings surveyed before 1948	Dwellings surveyed during 1948
Category 1—Houses satisfactory in all respects	229	28
Category 2—Minor Defects	161	78
Category 3—Requiring Repair, structural alteration or improvement	266	40
Category 4—Appropriate for Recon- ditioning	12	40
Category 5—Unfit for Habitation and beyond repair at rea- sonable cost	174	66
	842	252

“ Squatting ” continued at Hixon and Wheaton Aston Aerodrome. It was much reduced at Hixon during the year by the Council’s action in pressing other Local Authorities to rehouse families who had originated from the areas of those authorities, by the Council rehousing its “ own ” families, and by arranging with the co-operation of the Ministries of Works and Health for huts to be demolished immediately after vacation. Wheaton Aston Aerodrome appears to be a “ gathering ground ” for homeless families from many parts of the Midlands and though representations have been made by this Authority to the Ministries concerned, little appears to have been done to prevent further “ squatting ” at this Camp.

The Royal Commission on Population has had many interesting comments to offer on the subject of Housing. It has deprecated the undue concentration on the building of 5-roomed houses (three bedrooms) and has urged the erection of houses with more than three bedrooms plus a proportion of houses with less than three bedrooms. A system of interchange of tenancies between these houses of varying sizes is also recommended. The Commission has also stated that the most obvious special measure to secure that the larger families occupy houses appropriate to them would be the development of a system of Rent Rebates. At present many Local Authorities have schemes of rent rebates whereby the rent of Council houses varies according to the number of children in the family and also (in most schemes) the family income. The introduction of schemes of this sort has been, and is being, encouraged by the Ministry of Health on the ground that they constitute a method of using the public subsidy in a way that best conforms with its essential purpose of making it possible for Council houses to be inhabited by those who cannot afford to pay an economic rent.

It is pointed out that there is a strong case for the development of rent rebates for Council houses as a means of ensuring that public subsidies are directed towards the families which on grounds both of general welfare and the long-run-future of the country have most claim. Suitable means should also be found to extend rent rebates to similar families living in privately owned houses. The proper course is to examine the possibility of a general scheme of rent subsidies or rate rebates to abolish or at least reduce the handicap which in present conditions bars most parents of fair sized families from the occupation of a suitable house.

The Commission recognised the special importance of good and adequate housing for family life and that the housing conditions in which children are brought up exercise a profound influence on the character of the community. When the Commission encourages the interchange of tenancies of Council houses with changes in the size of family of the tenant, it points out that the pressures which may lead the family, as its numbers grow, to allow their housing standards to deteriorate are both subtle and powerful. In present circumstances the acute housing shortage, but even in less abnormal times, habit and inertia may cause a family to stay in a house that has become unsuitable, and lack of imagination may lead parents to tolerate conditions from which the children would suffer. Referred to also, are many of the older houses which are grossly defective in the elementary essentials for family living—lack of indoor sanitation, hot water facilities, a fixed bath, etc.

I am indebted to Mr. C. E. R. Turner, the Council's Assistant Engineer and Surveyor for the following comments :—

Housing.

During the year the housing schemes at Woodseaves and

Haughton have been completed, giving accommodation for 30 families, submersible Borehole pumps with small sewage disposal plants have been installed in each case. On the Hixon and Gnosall sites 11 and 6 houses respectively were occupied in the year. These sites have piped drainage and water supply. Preliminary plans are awaiting approval for housing sites at Church Eaton, Great Haywood and Brocton, and work has commenced on the site at Seighford to be supplied by water and sewage disposal by similar equipment to that used at Woodseaves and Haughton. Also, an additional nine houses at Hixon and 14 at Gnosall are under construction.

In addition 46 families have been accommodated in temporary dwellings at Aqualate Park, an Ex-W.D. Camp, having independent water supply and sewage disposal facilities, and a further 11 hutments comprising accommodation for 22 families are in the course of being converted.

Water Supply.

The Western Area Water Scheme Section II has been 90 per cent completed during the year, including the construction of a Reservoir at Hob Hill, capacity 250,000 gallons. Main water pipes have been laid in the parishes of Gnosall, Knightley and High Offley, and water supply made available in Gnosall. A delay in providing water to the other parishes has been caused by the non-delivery of the necessary pumping equipment, which is expected to be delivered in the Autumn.

The village of Seighford and parts of Bishton have been supplied during the year by the extension of the Stafford Borough Mains in these areas.

The extension of the main from Anchor Corner to Audmore, Gnosall, is expected to be commenced in the near future. Tenders have been received and approval of the tender price submitted by Mr. M. J. Collins, of Stretford, Manchester, is awaited from the Ministry of Health.

The Eastern Area Water Scheme covering the parishes of Weston, Salt and Enson, Fradswell and Stowe, has not progressed during the year. No approval has been forthcoming from the Ministry of Health and it is unlikely that any decision will be taken until the question of the re-casting of water supply areas has been settled.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Schemes for sewerage of the villages of Brocton, Walton, Milford, Great Haywood and Little Haywood and Colwich are still in the hands of the Ministry of Health, and it is expected that approval in principle will be received shortly. All housing sites where main sewers are not available have been provided with small disposal works, comprising, filter bed and settling tank, all of which have proved satisfactory.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The table below is culled from the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1948 to the Ministry of Labour and National Service, as required by the Factories Acts :

1.—Inspections by Sanitary Inspectors for purposes of provisions as to health :

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Non Mechanical	2	3	1	—
(ii) Mechanical Factories	30	10	1	—
Total	32	13	2	—

2.—Cases in which defects were found :

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.	
	Found	Remedied
Want of cleanliness	1	1
Sanitary conveniences unsuitable or de- fective	—	2*
Total	1	3

* The subject of Notices served 1947.

There were no outworkers known or reported in the district of the Council.

PETROLEUM ACTS.

Sixtyfour Licences were issued during the year for the bulk storage of 50,716 gallons of motor spirit. Forty-eight of the licensed premises had hand-pumps fitted to storage tanks, 10 had electric pumps and six stored in metal barrels and containers.

RODENT CONTROL.

Helped by financial assistance from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Council provides a free service of rat disinfection to residential property. The treatment of agricultural land and property is the responsibility of the Ministry. Remaining properties are treated by the Council and the cost re-charged to the occupiers.

Infestation of rats which were treated by the department (from which there was a total estimated kill of 436 rats) were :—

Private Residential Property	.....	10
R.D.C. Residential Property	.....	2
R.D.C. Refuse Tips and Sewage Works	.....	5
Other Properties	.....	2

The public sewers were tested for rats in September but there was no evidence of infestation.

SHOPS ACTS.

The following is the Shops Acts Inspector's Annual Report on work entailed by the Acts for the year ended 31st March, 1949 :

“ 14th April, 1949.

To the Chairman and Members of the Staffordshire County Council.

Shops Acts 1912—1934. Annual Report 1948/1949.

In conformity with the procedure under the Delegation Order, I submit below my report for the year ended 31st March, 1949.

All the shops in the area of the Council have been inspected during the year.

The following table gives the total number of shops and an analysis of the year's inspections :—

	No. of Shops	No. of Assistants. Occupiers' Family	Others	No. of Inspections
Butchers	8	13	4	9
Catering Establishments	7	11	2	9
Fruit and Vegetables.....	2	1	1	2
General Provisions	44	69	16	54
Sweets, Tobacco	12	18	2	16
Public Houses	48	90	6	48
Drapers	2	3	—	2
Garage and Cycles	11	11	16	13
Hairdressers	2	2	—	2
Post Offices (used solely as such)	14	22	1	17
Shoe Repairs	2	2	—	2
Total	152	242	48	174

The number of Shops closed half-days is as follows :—

Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
9	26	18	5	—	21

All the Public Houses are provided with conveniences for both sexes.

There are no underground shops and, apart from one permanently placed stall, no open fronted shops.

Contraventions.

The only contravention of the Shops Acts worthy of action, which was encountered at recent date, was at a Catering Establishment where the W.C. was defective and notice has been served on the occupier to remedy this.

In addition to the foregoing, a few minor contraventions exist but as they are in shops where no assistants are employed it was considered unreasonable in the circumstances to compel any action.

(Signed) G. M. LAWTON,

Inspector under Shops Acts."

FOOD INSPECTION.

Particulars of Food Inspected during the Year:—

MEAT.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle, Excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Horses.
Number killed (if known)	25	88	2	8	6	689
Number inspected	25	88	2	8	6	689
All diseases except Tuberculosis :—						
Whole carcases condemned	13	66	1	7	—	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.....	2	6	—	—	—	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	60.0%	81.8%	50.0%	87.5%	—	—
Tuberculosis only :—						
Whole carcases condemned	5	8	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned....	1	5	1	—	1	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	24.0%	14.7%	50.0%	—	16.6%	—

The above animals were killed and examined at a Casualty Slaughterhouse in the area, which is the reason for the high percentage of Meat condemned.

Weight of Meat (excluding Horses) Condemned due to :—

(a) Tuberculosis	.....	5,330 lbs.	
(b) Other Diseases or conditions	.....	26,975 lbs.	
			<hr/> 32,305 lbs.
Weight of Horseflesh Condemned	.....		1,895 lbs.
Weight of other Food Condemned	.....		664 lbs.
			<hr/>
Total weight of Food Condemned	.....		34,864 lbs.

Apart from the animals killed for food and shown above, several hundred pigs are killed each year for food in the area of this Council alone by way of “back-door” killing. These are of course for consumption by the owner and his family. Concern is again expressed that no inspection is made of this food having regard to the frequency of tuberculosis and other diseases in pork and the fact that such diseases are not usually recognisable by the average individual. There is no power of inspection of such animals by the Local Authority. In early 1948 the Chief Sanitary Inspector to the Council recommended that, as Ministry of Food Licences for the slaughter of private pigs in this Council’s area were issued, an invitation be sent at the same time to the owner inviting him to use the services of the qualified Food Inspectors in this Department and such procedure was adopted by the Local Food Office. On only five occasions did licensees take advantage during the year of this invitation, and in one case the animal was found to be affected with tuberculosis.

During 1948 the Ministry of Food required that private pig keepers in country areas have their pigs killed at licensed slaughterhouses and for this purpose five slaughterhouses were licenced by this Council after improvement of the premises in each case. There were, however, several provisos to the Ministry’s requirement, and a large number of pigs are still killed at the “back door.” These licences were additional to the licence granted year by year to the Casualty Slaughterhouse in the district. This Slaughterhouse continued to be kept in a manner satisfactory to this Department. Licences were also granted for the use during the year of two Knacker’s Yards in the area. Twenty-seven men were licensed to stun and slaughter animals under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

Food Preparing Premises and Food Shops.

There were only three premises in the area manufacturing prepared meats—these continued to be satisfactory—and only two premises in which ice-cream was manufactured. Both these latter premises were improved during the year to conform to Sec. 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Food Poisoning.

There were no cases of food poisoning notified during the year.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS.

Of Milk Producers in the district 322 hold Accredited Milk Licences and 34 hold Tuberculin-Tested Milk Licences (issued by Staffordshire C.C.). There were, during 1948, six retailers licensed by this Council to sell graded milk, i.e., one for Tuberculin-Tested Milk, four for Tuberculin-Tested (Pasteurised), and one for Pasteurised Milk (Supplementary Licence).

A. THOMSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

G. M. LAWTON,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

